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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

December 16, 2004

The Honorable Gary Locke
Governor, State of Washington

Dear Governor Locke:

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information of the State of Washington as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the state's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Department of Retirement Systems and the Local Government Investment Pool, which represent 14 percent and 51 percent, respectively of the assets and revenues/additions of the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Department of Retirement Systems and the Local Government Investment Pool, is based upon their reports.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our report and the report of other auditors, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate discretely presented component units and remaining fund information of the State of Washington as of June 30, 2004, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary funds for the fiscal year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in the United States of America, we will issue our report on our consideration of the State of Washington's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires. We applied limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. We did not audit the information and express no opinion thereon.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the State of Washington's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund statements and schedules listed in the table of contents, and the budgetary reports (CAF1054) referenced in Note 1.E.1 are for purposes of additional analysis, and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The other data included in this report, designated as the introductory and statistical sections in the table of contents, has not been audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion on such data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sonntag", with a stylized, flowing script.

BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM
STATE AUDITOR